

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An ice-cream container pack that forms a replaceable cartridge in an associated dispensing machine, said pack comprising a cylindrical body fitted with a nozzle and a plunger which, when operated by ~~the~~a piston of said machine, dispenses the ice cream from the pack via said nozzle, wherein said pack being characterised in that ~~presents~~ a bottom edge (8) of ~~the~~a cylindrical body wall (1) ~~is~~ directly attached to ~~the~~an end wall (5), said end wall being in the form of a truncated cone, ~~the~~a smaller and free base of which houses the extrusion nozzle (7), whereby a part of the end wall (5) constitutes ~~the~~a support base for the pack on ~~the~~a support (4') with which said dispensing machine is provided.

2. (currently amended) An ice-cream container pack according to claim 1, wherein the pack is sealed at ~~its~~a bottom end, during storage and transportation of said pack, by means of a disc (11) of shape and size appropriate to the smaller free base of the truncated cone end-wall (5) where the nozzle (7) is situated, so that said disc (11) is attached directly to the part of the pack corresponding to said extrusion nozzle (7), said disc being readily removable to facilitate dispensing of the ~~product~~ice cream.

3. (currently amended) An ice-cream container pack according to claim 1, wherein the overhanging portions (12) of ~~the~~a base or central sector (6) of the shortened truncated cone wall (5) defining the opening (7) or extrusion nozzle are minimally

deformable by the forces delivered from the machine's piston to the plunger cap-(3) of the pack during dispensing.

4. (previously presented) An ice-cream container pack according to claim 1 wherein the pack is substantially rigid.

5. (previously presented) An ice-cream container pack according to claim 1 wherein the pack is made of polypropylene.

6. (currently amended) A machine for the extrusion dispensing of an ice-cream product contained in a pack designed to transfer the ice-cream product (2) from said pack (1) to a consumption receptacle (20), said machine comprising a frame (4) equipped with means to allow the machine to stand on a horizontal platform or to be wall mounted, said frame bearing a holder (15) for the ice-cream container pack (1) and a means for driving a ram (19) which operates the plunger in said pack in order to extrude the ice cream product, said machine being characterised in that wherein the pack is a pack according to claim 1 and that the pack housing holder (15) comprises a support (4') on which the truncated conical end wall of said pack is directly seated.

7. (original) A machine according to claim 6, in which the support (4') for the ice-cream pack (1) is provided with inner radial mounts (10), said mounts having surfaces at an angle that matches that of the truncated cone end-wall (5) of the pack (1), thereby providing direct support to said end-wall.

8. (previously presented) A machine according to claim 6 in which means are provided for heating the support (4') or heating radial mounts attached to said support (10), on which the truncated cone wall (5) of the pack is seated during dispensing,

thereby providing local warming of the ice cream in the vicinity of the extrusion nozzle (7) and improving the fluidity of the product as it is extruded.

9. (currently amended) A machine according to claim 6, in which the means for driving the ram (19) comprises a rack (18) that terminates in said ram, said rack moving vertically within a housing (17), said housing being attached to the frame (4).

10. (original) A machine according to claim 9, in which the rack (18) is driven by a manually-operated lever (22) via a ring gear (21).

11. (previously presented) A machine according to claim 6, wherein the frame (4) is fitted with a stand or base (13) to support the machine on a counter, said stand or base being attached to said frame by means of a coupling (14), enabling said stand (13) to be removed when the machine is intended for wall mounting.

12. (previously presented) A machine according to claim 6, wherein the holder (15) for the pack (1) terminates at the end opposite to that where it is attached to the frame in a bushing, comprising a support (4') with a vertical axis, fitted with an internal perimeter stop (16), for stable coupling to the aforesaid pack (1), also arranged vertically, so that the sliding plunger cap (3) of said pack (1) faces the ram (19) of the rack (18), while the bottom outlet or nozzle (7) in the pack (1) is in turn over the receptacle (20) where the ice-cream is to be served.

13. (previously presented) A machine according to claim 6, wherein the holder (15) for the ice-cream pack (1) is mounted on a frame and can be height-adjusted to adapt the relative positions of said pack (1) and the ram (19) of the rack (18) to packs (1) of differing axial dimension and containing either one or several ice-cream servings.

14. (previously presented) A machine according to claim 6, wherein the ram (19) reverts automatically to an upper limit position, to which end the rack (18) is connected to the housing (17) by way of a return spring (24), against which the rack (18) moves when the lever (22) is operated.